FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
20-125A	ORLEANS		EAS.792

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*: South Eastham

Address: 10 Smith Lane

Historic Name: Abner L. & Hannah Rogers House

Uses: Present: wildlife clinic

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1885

Source: deeds, censuses

Style/Form: Queen Anne/end house

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barn, animal run, animal facility, shed

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
Deck added, window sash replaced, late 20th c.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

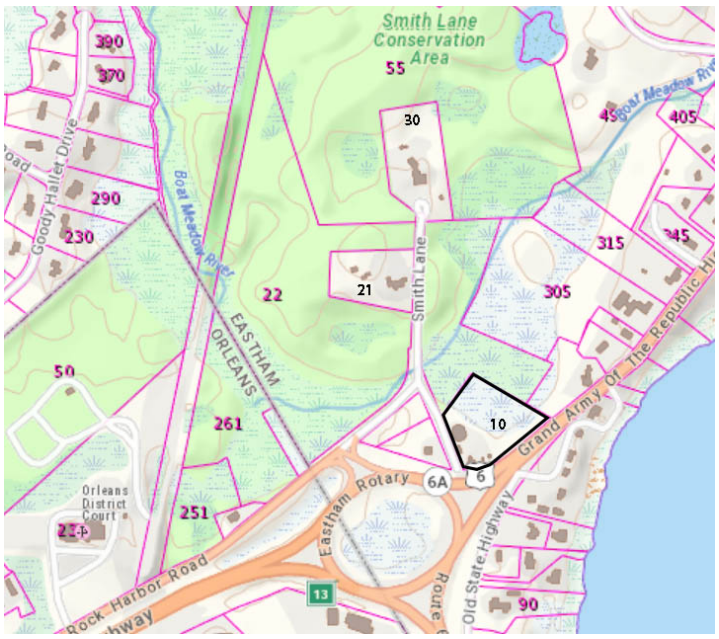
Acreage: 2.268

Setting: The house overlooks the Eastham Rotary on Rt.6.

Photograph

View from south

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Abner L. & Hannah Rogers House, built ca. 1885, is a story-and-a-half wood frame single dwelling with an end house plan with cross-gable wings on the sides and a one-story kitchen wing on the rear. The gables are decorated with Classical trim with pronounced friezes and short returns on the gable ends. Shingle siding flares out over the top of the first story. The front façade contains an entrance tucked under a gabled porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze engaged by the roof to a bay window. The cross-bale wing on the west side contains two windows on the first story and one in the gable; the east wing has single windows on each level. In the rear, the kitchen wing is recessed back from the west façade with an entrance on an open deck. A small story-and-a-half wood frame barn west of the house is finished in a manner similar to the house. It has a wagon bay with hanging door in its south gable end and a window above that may have originated as a mow door. Its basement is exposed at grade on its rear end; a concrete block foundation suggests the building has perhaps been moved. Two recent buildings have been added to the property for the functions of the wildlife rehabilitation center that presently owns it.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

It would appear that the house at 10 Smith land was built for Orleans mariner Abner L. Rogers (1840-1917) and his wife Hannah Smith. Hannah was the daughter of Lewis Smith Jr. (1810-83) and Mehitable Smith (1812-1909) with whom the Rogers lived after their marriage in 1866 in a house on this site or in the vicinity (not extant). In 1870 this household contained Abner, Hannah and their infant daughter Hattie, as well as Hannah's parents and her brother Zelotes. Both Lewis and Zelotes Smith were fishermen. In 1880 the household included Lewis, then farming, his wife, son-in-law and master mariner Abner Rogers, daughter Hannah, a dressmaker, and their daughter Hattie.

The property's history began in October 1849 when the children of Mary Knowles Smith (1779-1848) deeded two parcels, one with a house on three acres at the corner of King's Highway and what became Smith Lane, to Lewis Smith of Orleans for $1000.[1] Mary K. Smith was the widow of Nehemiah Smith (1776-1820) and had eight children between 1803 and 1816; she and they were probably the nine persons in her household in the 1830 Eastham census. The 1840 census lists her, however, in a household of two.

The son of Lewis and Ruth Higgins Smith of Orleans, Lewis Smith Jr. (1810-83) married Mehitable Smith (1812-1909), the eldest daughter of Myrick Smith (1785-1870) of Eastham, in 1834. The 1840 census lists the couple in Eastham with three young males, no doubt sons Daniel (born 1835, Obed (1836-1906) and Heman (born 1839). By 1850 Lewis and Mehitable Smith were living in Eastham in the vicinity of 10 Smith Lane with six children (Hannah, John, and Samuel were born between 1842 and 1848) and the couple Richard (another fifth cousin) and Achsah Crosby Smith. Lewis Smith was then a mariner, but by 1855 he had turned to farming, and sons Obed and Heman were teenagers at sea. By then their youngest son Zelotes had been born, just after the 1850 census was compiled. The 1860 census credits Lewis Smith with $800 in real property, and by 1865 he and his wife were living with children Hannah, Samuel, and Zelotes in this house.

Lewis Smith died in 1883, and the 10 Smith Lane house likely was built at this point or as late as 1897 when his widow and four sons, Heman, Obed, John, and Zelotes, sold 1.75 acres and the house plus another 4.75 acres with its barn and outbuildings to Abner L. Rogers for $400.[2] The 1900 census lists Hittie Smith in the household with Abner and Hattie Rogers. Mehitable Smith died in 1909, and in 1910 the census described Rogers as a retired sea captain living with his wife. Hannah Smith Rogers died in 1913, her husband Abner four years later. The property passed to their only child, Hattie, who in 1891 had married Arthur F. Smith of Harwich. The couple is listed as Orleans residents in censuses from 1900 to 1940; thus, they must have rented the 10 Smith Lane house. In 1936 Route 6 was widened encroaching on the front of the house. Between April 1940, when the Orleans

[1] Oliver Smith and Laura C Smith, Charlestown; Seth K Smith, Henry and Almira Harding and Louisa Crosby, Eastham; Albert Smith, Wilbraham; and Mary Chapman, Orleans, to Lewis Smith, Orleans, October 1849, BCD 47:19. The grantor and grantee Smiths were fifth cousins: Lewis's wife Mehitable Smith and Oliver Smith and his siblings had only the immigrant Richard Smith (c 1610-85) as a common ancestor.

[2] Heman Smith, Obed C. Smith, Eastham; John M. Smith and Zelotes Smith of Orleans, and Hittie Smith of Eastham to Abner L. Rogers, 4 February 1897, BCD 227:166.

census was compiled, and 17 June of the same year, Hattie L. Rogers Smith died, and her children Alton L., Carlton W. and Roger F. Smith transferred their interest in 10 Smith Lane to their father.[3] By 1950 Arthur F. Smith had died, and his children and heirs sold the two parcels to Ralph H. and Louise M. Jennings of Norton.[4] The new owners subdivided the property and sold 10 Smith Lane and its 0.61-acre lot a little more than a year later to Lewis H. Bacon Jr. and his wife Marion of Weymouth.[5] Marion Bacon's maiden name was Higgins, and she was living in the Hyde Park section of Boston in 1919 when she married Lewis Bacon. Given her name, she may have had some kin connection to Eastham. The Eastham Rotary was constructed in 1959 further encroaching on the property.

The Bacons owned 10 Smith Lane until 1979. Lewis Bacon died in April 1973, and his widow sold the property six years later to their children Priscilla A. Picard of Wrightson, Pennsylvania; Phyllis Bruce of Orleans, and Lewis Bacon III of Somerville. They sold the property in 1985 to Lynne Olson of Jonesboro, Tennessee. Olson, later Lynne E. Fisk, sold 10 Smith Lane to Wild Care, Inc., in 2004. Wild Care is a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation clinic founded by Karen Van den Deale in her basement in Brewster in 1993 and incorporated in 1994. The growth in animals the organization cared for prompted the search for a larger space, and Wild Care sponsored a range of fund-raising events that enabled it acquire 10 Smith Lane. Wild Care Inc. was the owner of record in 2020.[6]

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MAPS
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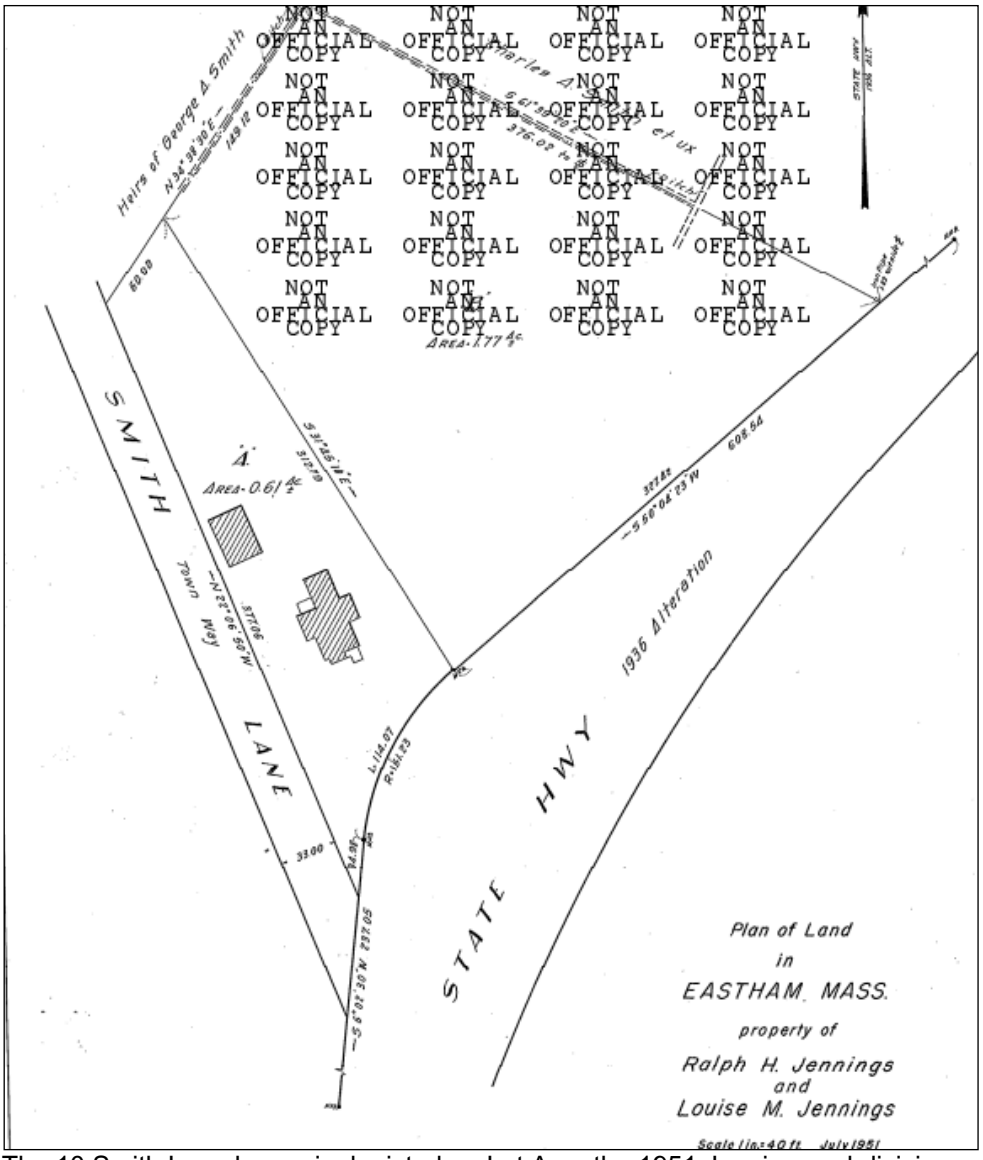
[3] Alton L. Smith, Carlton W. Smith, and Roger F. Smith, Orleans, to Arthur F. Smith, 17 June 1940, BCD 567:290.
[4] Alton L. Smith, Carlton W. Smith, and Roger Smith, all Orleans, to Ralph H. and Louise M. Jennings, Norton, 5 June 1950, BCD 753:249.
[5] Ralph H. and Louise M. Jennings to Lewis H. Bacon Jr. and Marion H. Bacon, Weymouth, 1 August 1951, BCD 789:334.
[6] Marion H. Bacon to Priscilla A. Picard, Wrightson PA; Phyllis Bruce, Orleans; and Lewis Bacon III, Somerville, 27 January 1979, BCD 2872:293; Priscilla A. Picard, Wrightson PA; Phyllis Bruce, Orleans; and Lewis Bacon, Somerville, to Lynne Olson, Jonesboro TN, 17 December 1985, BCD 4356:275; Lynne E. Fisk, fka Lynne E. Olson, Rockwood ME, to Wild Care Inc., Brewster, 19 October 2004, BCD 19162:78. The 10 Smith Lane house is shown on Lot A on "Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass. Property of Ralph H. Jennings and Louise M. Jennings," July 1951, BCP 99:131. Kerry Reid, Wild Care Inc., e-mail to Kathryn Grover, 24 August 2020.

Continuation sheet 2

SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES



The 10 Smith Lane house is depicted on Lot A on the 1951 Jennings subdivision plan (BCP 99:131).

PHOTOGRAPHS
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View from SE.

View from NW.

View of barn from SW.

View of barn from north, wildlife center building on left.